

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8758

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1271

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: LABOR RALLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 18

REF: LIMA 1148

1. THE UNIFYING COUNCIL OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, A COORDINATING GROUP OF TRADE UNIONS LED BY THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP, IS PLANNING A MASS RALLY OF THE "WORKING CLASS" FEBRUARY 18 AT 7 P.M. IN DOWNTOWN PLAZA SAN MARTIN. GROUPS PARTICIPATING IN RALLY ACCORDING TO ITS SPONSORS ARE THE CGTP, THE SMALL CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT CNT, THE LIMA REGIONAL ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CTRP (THIS GROUP IS TO THE LEFT OF AND AT ODDS WITH CTRP NATIONAL LEADERSHIP), THE FISHERMEN'S UNION, BANK WORKERS' FEDERATION (AFFILIATED TO CGTP), AND LIMA COMMERCIAL WORKERS AFFILIATED TO CGTP. THE UNIFYING COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE MORE DETAILS AT A FEBRUARY 10 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF RALLY IS TO PREVENT SLOW-DOWN IN REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS AND INSURE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OR "DEEPENING" OF THE REVOLUTION. WORKERS WILL ALSO CALL FOR MODIFICATION OF RECENT DECREE LAW SETTING A LIMIT ON WAGE INCREASES AS WELL AS FOR A "RADICAL CHANGE IN LABOR POLICY". RALLY MAY BE DESIGNED TO UP-STAGE APRA DEMONSTRATION SET FOR FEBRUARY 20 AND MAY ALSO BE SCHEDULED SO AS TO COINCIDE WITH VISIT OF THE SECRETARY. LEFTIST DAILY EXPRESO IN FEBRUARY 7 EDITION JUXTAPOSED
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ON FRONT PAGE ITS ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL WITH A

CALL FOR FEBRUARY 18 RALLY OF THE "WORKING CLASS".

3. IN A MOVE PROBABLY DESIGNED TO ENSURE LARGE ATTENDANCE AT RALLY, THREE CGTP FEDERATIONS INCLUDING IMPORTANT METALWORKER UNIONS HAVE ALSO ANNOUNCED 48-HOUR NATIONAL STRIKES FOR FEBRUARY 17 AND 18. ALTHOUGH THE CGTP (WHICH CONDEMNED THE APRISTA CTP FOR CALLING A 48-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE FEBRUARY 2) WILL PROBABLY NOT FORMALLY ISSUE CALL FOR A NATIONAL STRIKE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BANK WORKERS AND OTHER COMMUNIST-LED UNIONS WILL ALSO WALK OUT FEBRUARY 17 AND 18.

4. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 6, AN AIDE TO PRIME MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOP WOULD NOT PERMIT LABOR RALLY FEBRUARY 18 BECAUSE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. HE SAID THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER (PRESUMABLY IN FEBRUARY 10 SESSION).

5. IN HIS CONVERSATION OF FEBRUARY 9 AMBASSADOR RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH FONMIN DE LA FLOR WHO HAD NOT FOCUSED ON THE COINCIDENCE. DE LA FLOR APPRECIATED THE PROBLEM AND TOLD AMBASSADOR NOT TO WORRY ABOUT IT BECAUSE "THEY WOULD TAKE CARE OF IT", IMPLYING GOP WOULD NOT GIVE PERMIT FOR RALLY AT THAT TIME.
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